



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
HISTORICAL LANDMARKS and RECORDS COMMISSION

B-50 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration · 500 West Temple Street · Los Angeles, CA 90012
213/974-1431

Louis Skelton, CHAIRMAN • Yolanda Duarte-White, VICE-CHAIR
Helen J. Monteilh • Stephen Sass • Ivy Sun, COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 20, 2010

Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

PRESENT:

Louis Skelton, Chariman
Yolanda Duarte-White, Vice Chair
Stephen J. Sass

EXCUSED ABSENT:

Helen J. Monteih
Ivy Sun

EX OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVE:

Maria Hall, LA Superior Court, Archive & Records
Robert Seal, Public Library

GUESTS:

Rick Corsini, Corsini Stark Architects
Ofelia Esparza, Volunteer/Artist Self Help Graphics
Dr. Jim Gatewood, Self Help Graphics
Kary L. Golden, Coordinator, Countywide Records and Archives
Laurene Harding, Volunteer, LA Conservancy
Luis Hoyos, Cal State Poly Pomona
Daniel Kramer, LA Conservancy
Evonne Gallardo, Executive Director, Self Help Graphics
Karina Muniz, LA Conservancy
Miriam Ramos, LA Superior Court, Archive & Records
James Rojas, Latino Urban Forum
Marcello Vavala, LA Conservancy

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lee Millen, Head Staff
Nyla Jefferson, Staff

Historical Landmarks and Records Commission
Minutes of August 20, 2010
Page 2

CALL TO ORDER

Yolanda Duarte-White, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order as a Committee of the Whole at 10:49 a.m.

Chairman Skelton joined the meeting at 10:54 a.m. establishing a quorum and officially called the meeting to order.

STAFF REPORT

Lee Millen, Staff, reported that Carolyn James, Principal Appraiser, Assessor's Office, advised that historically significant sites in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County recognized by the Office of Historic Preservation are eligible to apply to receive a tax benefit as cited in the Mills Act. Also, the State Historical Resource Commission will hold its next workshop on Thursday, November 4, 2010, and meeting on Friday, November 5, 2010.

STIMULUS MONIES USED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ARCHIVAL CENTER

In response to Commissioner Sass, Mr. Millen advised that the county archival manager may be able to address the issue of stimulus monies. Kary Golden, Coordinator, Countywide Records and Archives, will work with staff to report back on this issue.

CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES NOMINATION, SELF HELP GRAPHICS & ART (3800 CESAR CHAVEZ BOULEVARD, EAST LOS ANGELES)

LA Conservancy representatives Marcello Vavala and Karina Ruiz provided a power point presentation on Self Help Graphic and Arts Building on 3800 (Brooklyn Avenue) Cesar Chavez. The history of the property, from 1927 – 2010, includes the buildings transformation in 1980 when Eduardo Ropesa placed broken ceramic tile during an ensuing three years on the lower half of the building. The Conservancy highlighted two criteria that qualifies the site for historical designation (1) It is an important thriving cultural art center within the Chicano community and has gained a national recognition; and (2) For its association with a community activist, Sister Karen. Other advocates present expressed their support of the nomination based on a long history of cultural significance to the area.

Rick Corsini, Corsini Stark Architects, reported that he represents the owners who are inclined to support the nomination and tenants, Self Help Graphics and Arts. Their only concern is not qualifying for the Mills Act in Los Angeles County. Staff person Millen alluded to the fact that the property owner can apply under the Mills Act if the site's nomination is approved for designation.

On motion of Chairman Skelton, seconded by Commissioner Sass and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the application, as to form, of the California Register of Historical Resources Nomination of the Self Help Graphic and Art building, and recommended its support.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 19, 2010 MINUTES

The minutes for the meeting of March 19, 2010 were approved by acclamation.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Staff reported that as requested the wording for a scroll honoring Commissioner Monteilh has been drafted to acknowledge her services on the Commission. Chairman Skelton agreed to contact Supervisor Ridley-Thomas regarding the vacancy on the Commission due to Commissioner Monteilh's absence.

UPDATE ON THE COUNTY'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

No reports at this time are available from County representatives.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE COMMITTEE - COMMISSIONER DUARTE-WHITE

Vice Chair Duarte-White noted that she was unaware that the Mills Act was established in Los Angeles County. Lee Millen, Staff, replied that the owner could apply for the Mills Act with the Commission and for Board of Supervisors' approval. Commissioner Sass requested that staff place the Mills Act on the County's website to inform the public of the opportunity for this tax benefit.

Marcello Vavala, LA Conservancy, fully supports adopting a Los Angeles County historical preservation ordinance; he offered the Conservancy's resources on best practices. There are only five to six counties in California with established ordinances that authorize the County in the unincorporated areas to review and establish historical designations. Also, the Mills Act is a 10 year renewable contract with an option to opt-out. Once the contract is established the Commission will ensure the owner is maintaining the property properly.

Chairman Skelton requested that the LA Conservancy consider contacting each of their respective Supervisors to spark an interest in establishing an ordinance.

EX OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

Robert Seal, Public Library, reported that in June 2010 the Library's California Anna Collection, that defines California history with emphasis on the cities and communities the library serves, was relocated to the Norwalk Regional Library to better preserve its collection. There are 25,000 items in the collection. Also, prior to June he was responsible for the inventory of the James Cooks books collection, the California census records dating back to 1830, and other remarkable historical items. Further, the Library reduced budgeted costs by changing the employee work schedule to provide a 4/40 or a 5/50 public counter schedule for approximately 45 of the 85 libraries; this also allowed the Library to reduce its utility costs.

MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING)

Commissioner Sass requested that staff inquire regarding hosting a website or a Link for the Historical Landmarks and Records Commission to publicize its services available to the public. Also, an on-line collaboration with the Public Library or County Museum would be of benefit to constituents.

In response to Commissioner Sass, Mr. Seal will report back on the possible scanning of historical documents on the Library's website to highlight a monthly historical item(s) for the public.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 5, 2010 at the East Los Angeles Library.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and without any objections, the Commission unanimously adjourned at 12:20 p.m.